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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

MENDOZA, ROBERT J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3713

DATE MAILED: 02/11/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/767,418

Applicant(s)

SIMON ET AL.

Examiner

Robert J Mendoza

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspond nc address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-75 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 8, 13-35, 43 and 68-75 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 6-12, 36-42 and 59-65 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-5, 13-35, 43-58 and 66-75 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mindes (USPN 5,573,244).

Regarding claims 1-5, 22-35 and 52-58, Mindes discloses, in col. 5:27-67 and col. 6:1-25, a method of playing a pari-mutuel betting game between a plurality of players, the pari-mutuel betting game based on events unfolding during a live sporting event, a principal objective of the game to acquire the largest number of betting tokens by the end of the sporting event and allocating betting tokens to each of the players prior to commencement of the sporting. Mindes discloses, in col. 9:35-67 and col. 10:1-67, conducting a plurality of betting events, the betting event based on a bettable event occurring during the sporting event, selecting a betting event, opening a betting line for the betting event, allowing the players an amount of time within which to selectively bet tokens on the possible outcomes of the betting event and freezing tokens be on the open line such that the frozen tokens are not available for further betting until a payoff has been made. Mindes discloses, in col. 5:1-67 and col. 6:1-25, closing the betting line, monitoring the sporting event until a termination event occurs with regard to the betting event, terminating the betting event upon occurrence of the termination event for the betting event and paying winners of each betting event. Mindes discloses, in col. 9:1-67, col. 12:1-57 and col. 13:1-25,

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allocating bonus tokens, only one betting line is open at one given time, a new betting line is open at any given time or whenever a prior betting line closes and each of the players can place multiple bets on any open betting line. Mindes discloses, in FIG. 1, cols. 13-15, all the electrical components utilized to run the betting event. Mindes discloses, in FIG. 1, col. 14:45-67, col. 16:1-67 and col. 18:1-67, customizing a set of house rules for a private group, selecting a private group through a browser, running a plurality of betting games simultaneously, assigning identification numbers to the players and a wireless internet.

Regarding claims 13-21, 43-51 and 66-75, Mindes discloses a football, baseball tennis soccer, basketball hockey and horse racing events. Mindes discloses, in col. 18:1-25, col. 19:47-58 and col. 20:1-25, bonuses on lines decrease in value as the race progresses, such that players who bet correctly in the race have an advantage over players who correctly later in the race, the players pay money to a gambling establishment in exchange for the allocation tokens and the gambling establishment retains a percentage of tokens bet on the betting lines. Mindes discloses, in col. 1:1-25, col. 19:14-67 and col. 20:1-45, at least some of the lines open at random points in time so as to add uncertainty as to when a line will close and thereby provide an incentive to place bets early in a given line and placing bets on events that occur in a baseball, football, basketball, hockey, tennis and racing.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-75 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 6-12, 36-42 and 59-65 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to R. Mendoza whose telephone number is (703) 305-7345. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Teresa Walberg, can be reached at (703) 308-1327. The USPTO official fax number is (703) 872-9306.

RM

RM
February 4, 2004


Teresa Walberg
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3700